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First US Journalist Killed in Iraq Was UNH Alum

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First U.S. Journalist Killed in Iraq Was UNH Alum

By [Kim Billings](#)
UNH News Bureau

April 4, 2003

DURHAM, N.H. , Michael Kelly, editor-at-large of the Atlantic Monthly and syndicated columnist for the Washington Post, was killed in a Humvee accident while traveling with the Army's 3rd Infantry Division near Baghdad.

Kelly, 46, was a 1979 graduate of the University of New Hampshire. He majored in history, and was editor in chief of the student paper, The New Hampshire.

UNH President Ann Weaver Hart released this statement today:

"The University of New Hampshire mourns the death of Michael Kelly, who graduated from UNH with an undergraduate degree in history in 1979. The university has long admired his distinguished career as a journalist, which may likely have begun when he served as editor of UNH's student newspaper, The New Hampshire. This last distinction -- as the first American journalist killed in the Iraqi conflict -- is hard for us to take, so we will remember him for his knowledgeable reporting through all these years and for his insightful commentary on current events."

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